(b) and (c) All the States/Union Territories including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been advised from time to time to open new fair price shops wherever necessary; provide the required infrastructure such a storage and transportation of essential commodites; develop proper monitoring system; set up consumer advisory/vigilance Committees; tighten inspection and enforcement measures to train the employees engaged in Public Distribution System and to ensure that fair price shops function properly. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have also been advised to prepare detailed action plans for their respective territories. They have been asked to give special attention for developing infrastructure in rural and backward areas.

Cotton Mills

707. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 2nd April 1986 in which it is stated that the Government cotton mills will be lossing Rs. 500 crores in their business in the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Central Government have asked for a report from the concerned authorities ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) what remedial measures are being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Press report publishd in Hindustan Times dated the 2nd April, 1986 pertains to the losses suffered by the Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Grower's Marketing Federation. The losses of these organisations during the current year are estimated as follows :

1. Cotton Corpn. of India Limited (CCI) Rs. 50 00 crores (Provisional).

2. Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation. (MSCCGMF) (Rs. 170.00 crores (Provisional).

(c) and (d) The above organisations are likely to suffer losses due to easy supply position of cotton in the country. The Cotton Corporation of India is making purchases at the minimum support prices whereas the Maharastra Federation is purchasing cotton at the guranteed prices. This is being done with a view to ensuring that the cotton growers get remunerative prices for their produce.

(e) Government of India have decided to export cotton surplus to our domestic requirement. During the current cotton seasons, 10. 00 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton, 52, 000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of Yellow Pickings have been released for export. Further, with a view to increasing exports of cotton, the condition of minimum export prices for export has also been withdrawn. The Maharashtra Cotton Monoply Procurement Scheme of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Grower's Marketing Federation is being reviewed by the Govtl. of India.

Export of Wheat and Rice by the STC

708. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporating proposes to export sizeable quantity of wheat and rice during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what is the quantity of rice and wheat proposed to be exported to each country ; and

(d) what amount of foreign exchange is likely to be earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At this stage it is not possible to indicate the quantity, countrywise export figures and foreign exchange likely to be earned onexport of rice and wheat by S.T.C.

Estate Duty Collection

709. SHRI J. K. JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) what was the total revenue accrued from Estate Duty Tax assessment during the financial year 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(b) whether widows and their dependents are also subjected to assessment of Estate Duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The total revenue collected from Estate Duty during the Financial Year 1984-85 was 24.06 crores and during the year 1985-86 was Rs. 21.84 crores.

(b) By the Estate Duty (Amendment), Act 1985 the levy of estate duty has been discontinued on estate passing on deaths on or after 16-3-1985, However, in cases where the estate passed prior to 16-3-1985, the accountable persons may include widows and dependents.

Discussion of the U.S. Attorney Generel in India on Drug Trafficking

@710. SHRI J.P. GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Attroney General had visited India in March, 1986 and had discussed problems of drug trafficking and drug abuse;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) what has been the outcome of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The talks, which were of general nature, covered issues like bilateral co-operation in the area of narcotics control. It is expected that the talks, which were likely to lead to increased co-operation between U.S.A. and India, will help in effectively fighting the menace of drug trafficking.

711 [*Transferred to the 8th May 1986*]

12 NOON

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

1. Report and Accounts (1984-85) of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay and Related Papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1980-84) of The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER). Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, Under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited Bombay, for the year 1984-85, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the Company .

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-2555/86 for (a) and (b)]

@Previously Unstarred Question 310, transferred from 24th April, 1986.